of India on historical basis.

(b) and (c) No growth rate was allowed in allocating kerosene to States/UTs during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

(d) Kerosene is a deficit product and in view of the limited availability of the product on account of foreign exchange constraints and heavy subsidy involved, it has not been possible to allow any growth rate.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Import of SKO is allowed under Parallel Marketing Scheme for sale at non-subsidised rates.

Formation of a Joint Company with IOC

2937. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a Joint Venture Company with IOC, Balmer and Lawrie and the French Company NYCO SA; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (c) Government have approved the proposal of Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd., for setting up of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) with Indian Oil Corporation and NYCO SA of France for manufacture of special purpose lubricants. The proposed JVC will have 50% equity participation by NYCO SA, France and 25% each by Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

Exploration of Medium and Small Sized Oil Fields

2938. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question 53 in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1993 and state:

(a) whether Government have completed evaluation of the offers of bids received from Indian and Foreign companies for the exploration and development of medium and small sized oil fields, and if so, in how many cases evaluation has been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details of such companies and oil fields in respect of which evaluation has been completed and contracts have been finalised;

(c) by when the evaluation of the remaining companies is likely to be completed and contracts finalised; and

(d) what progress has so far been made in the assessment exploration and development of each medium and small sized oil fields in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) While evaluation of all the 117 bids received has been completed, negotiations with the bidders are in progress. Award of contracts would be finalised after negotiations with the bidders are completed.

(d) The programmes in this regard for each of the medium and small sized oil fields will be known only after the award of contracts.

बिहार में पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों और प्राकृतिक गैस की उपलब्धता

2939. **श्री कामेश्वर पासवान :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार में 16 से अधिक स्थानों पर खुदाई के दौरान पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मिलने के संकेत मिले थे;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में तेल के कुओं की खुदाई के लिए कोई धन राशि निर्धारित नहीं की गई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग द्वारा बिहार राज्य की उपेक्षा किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस की खोज करने और तेल के कुओं की खुदाई के लिए क्या प्रावधान किया गया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) इस कार्य के लिए परिकल्पित कार्यक्रम के लिए धन-राशि उपलब्ध है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान बिहार में किये गये सर्वेक्षणों के लिए तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग तथा आयल इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा लगभग 16 करोड़ रुपये की धन राशि उपलब्ध कराई गई है।